

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

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**Secretary Clinton on New Era in Libya, U.S. Release of Libyan Assets**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson  
For Immediate Release  
August 25, 2011  
2011/1367

**STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON****Statement on Libya**

The events in Libya this week have heartened the world. The situation remains fluid, but it is clear that the Qadhafi era is coming to an end, opening the way for a new era in Libya – one of liberty, justice, and peace.

We join the Libyan people in celebrating the courageous individuals who have stood up to a tyrant and defended their homes and communities against Qadhafi's violence.

The United States and the international community have stood by the Libyan people during many difficult days in the last six months. Together, we prevented a massacre, and we supported the people's efforts to gain their freedom. We will continue to support them as they take on the regime elements that still pose a threat to Libya's future – and as they address their humanitarian needs and rebuild their nation. The Libyan people made this revolution and they will lead the way forward, but they deserve our help. Libya's future is not guaranteed. Considerable work lies ahead.

The coming days and weeks will be critical. The United States and its partners are moving quickly and decisively on several fronts.

Earlier this week, I spoke by phone with the Chair of the Transitional National Council, Mustafa Mohammed Abdul Jalil, to express our support for the TNC's efforts and to discuss next steps. I also hosted a conference call of foreign ministers of many of the member nations of Libya Contact Group, to coordinate our efforts – humanitarian, financial, diplomatic, and otherwise – on behalf of the Libyan people. Today, the Libya Contact Group held a meeting in Istanbul to demonstrate our continued commitment to Libya and to focus on the urgent financial needs of the TNC. The Contact Group called for an expedited process to lift sanctions on Libyan assets. The United States supports this call.

Today, we have secured the release of \$1.5 billion in Libyan assets that had been frozen in the United States. This money will go toward meeting the needs of the people of Libya. We urge other nations to take similar

measures. Many are already doing so.

As funds are released, we look to the Transitional National Council to fulfill its international responsibilities and the commitments it has made to build a tolerant, unified democratic state—one that protects the universal human rights of all its citizens. It is critical that the TNC engage swiftly with communities and leaders across Libya to ensure order, provide critical basic services to the people, and pave the way for a full democratic transition. Libya's future will be peaceful only if the leaders and people of Libya reach out to each other in a spirit of peace. There can be no place in the new Libya for revenge attacks and reprisals.

The TNC also has obligations to the international community. We will look to them to ensure that Libya fulfills its treaty responsibilities, that it ensures that its weapons stockpiles do not threaten its neighbors or fall into the wrong hands, and that it takes a firm stand against violent extremism. At the same time, we call on Qadhafi, his family, and his supporters to bring an end to their continuing violence for the sake of the Libyan people and Libya's future.

From the beginning, the United States has played a central role in marshalling the international response to the crisis in Libya. Together with our partners, we have saved thousands of lives and helped confront a ruthless, erratic dictator who was poised to slaughter his own people in order to hold on to power. The United States will stand with the Libyan people and our international partners in the weeks and months ahead, to help as Libyans write the next chapter of their history.

**General Sees Improved Afghan Governance and Security**

By Stephen Kaufman | Staff Writer

Washington — Afghan security forces and government institutions are continuing to strengthen their capacity and earn more confidence from the Afghan people, says a U.S. coalition forces commander in Afghanistan, adding that his team is continuing its efforts to put pressure on insurgents and help Afghan authorities create conditions to foster stability and economic development.

Speaking to reporters from Bagram Air Base August 25, U.S. Army Major General Daniel Allyn, who is the commanding general of Regional Command East, said Afghan government officials and security forces operating in the areas where his unit is located "continue to grow in capability and confidence, allowing us to build upon security conditions and deliver essential services to the people of Afghanistan."

Allyn said Regional Command East's main effort is "to

partner with and develop the Afghan security forces to achieve security primacy and to set the conditions for security, governance and economic development" in 14 eastern provinces that are home to 7.5 million Afghans.

"Our current focus, shoulder to shoulder with our Afghan security force partners, is to expand the Kabul security zone and interdict insurgent infiltration along the 450-kilometer Afghanistan-Pakistan border," he said.

Allyn said that over the past three months since he assumed command, he and his unit have been "witnesses to the Afghan security force and government institutions strengthening their capacity and effectiveness."

Regional Command East is part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and is subordinate to ISAF's Intermediate Joint Command and Marine Corps General John Allen, who is the overall ISAF commander.

In early August, Major General Allyn said, the Afghan National Police delivered 160 tons of humanitarian assistance to the citizens of Nuristan in "an extremely complex operation" that was conducted with limited assistance from coalition forces.

"In the response to the delivery of the humanitarian aid that was delivered exclusively by Afghan security forces, the people truly gained confidence and trust not only in those security forces, but in the fact that the government reached out and delivered that aid to them in advance of Ramadan," Allyn said.

The provincial government of Kunar, led by Governor Fazlullah Wahidi, was able to respond quickly to severe flooding in August that destroyed a bridge that was the only connection for those living in the Wata Pur Valley and the Pech River Valley with the capital, Asadabad.

Allyn said Wahidi's government "responded within hours to coordinate an emergency response that not only delivered emergency aid to the people in the valley but also enabled an international response and also a coalition force response with bridging assets to restore the capability in a matter of days."

He said the response of authorities in Kunar "was a clear sign to the people of the Pech River Valley and Wata Pur Valley of the capability of their government to respond to their needs."

Allyn also said Afghan Uniformed Police recently conducted two independent operations that targeted the smuggling of ammonium nitrate from Pakistan. Prompted by their own intelligence information, the police seized more than 5,750 kilograms of ammonium nitrate, used in homemade bombs.

He said insurgents have been carrying out "ruthless, desperate and inexplicable actions" targeting the Afghan people, and that they have caused 85 to 90 percent of civilian casualties over the past 90 days.

"Their blatant disregard for the Afghan people manifests itself in suicide attacks that predominantly target innocent civilians, and ill-disciplined direct and indirect fire attacks that brutalize population centers," Allyn said. As a result, he added, there has been "increased cooperation between the Afghan people, the local government and the security forces who serve them."

He said that in several areas of his command, there have been signs that both Taliban and Haqqani insurgents are growing weary of their armed struggle. He also said he has been hearing from provincial governors that there are "significant amounts of informal offers" from Taliban leaders to participate in the Afghan government's reconciliation and reintegration efforts.

"Obviously, [the governors] ask us to keep the pressure on the insurgent groups so that they can continue to make progress in that dialogue," he said.

#### **Statement on Attack in Syria on Cartoonist, Jailing of Activists**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson  
August 25, 2011  
2011/1365

STATEMENT BY VICTORIA NULAND,  
SPOKESPERSON

Syria: Attack on Ali Farzat and Persecution of Activists

The Syrian government's targeted, brutal attack on Ali Farzat, the most popular political cartoonist in the country and a long-time human rights advocate, is deplorable. The regime's thugs focused their attention on Farzat's hands, beating them furiously and breaking one of them - a clear message that he should stop drawing. He was then reportedly dumped on the side of a road in Damascus, where passers-by stopped and took him to a Damascus hospital.

Many other moderate activists who oppose violence have been jailed for speaking out against the regime, including Walid al-Buni, Nawaf Basheer, Georges Sabra, Mohammed Ghaliyoun, and Abdullah al-Khalil. Some have been held for months incommunicado.

While making empty promises about dialogue with the Syrian people, the Assad regime continues to carry out brutal attacks against peaceful Syrians trying to exercise

their universal right to free expression. We demand that the Assad regime immediately stop its campaign of terror through torture, illegal imprisonment, and murder.

### U.S. Statement on Cease-Fire in Sudan

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson  
For Immediate Release  
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STATEMENT BY VICTORIA NULAND,  
SPOKESPERSON

#### Two-week Ceasefire in Sudan

This week's announcement by the Government of Sudan to establish a two-week unilateral ceasefire in Sudan's Southern Kordofan state is a positive initial step toward bringing stability and relief to those affected by violence since early June. The United States strongly urges the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to show the same leadership and declare a two week ceasefire as well.

While we are encouraged by this announcement of a unilateral ceasefire and renewed discussions between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, the parties must immediately return to talks to agree to a full cessation of hostilities and a resolution of the political future of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. The Framework Agreement signed on June 28 in Addis Ababa is a strong foundation for these talks.

The Government of Sudan must allow immediate and full access to humanitarian organizations so that they can provide much needed relief to the people of Southern Kordofan. We strongly urge both sides to refrain from using a ceasefire to strengthen any military positions.

The United States supports the call by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a full investigation of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Southern Kordofan. Those responsible for attacks on civilians must be held accountable for their actions.

### Stopping Dengue with a Disease-Free Mosquito

By Charlene Porter | Staff Writer

Washington — Introducing a particular bacterium into the reproductive cycle of the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito may stop transmission of the virus that causes dengue fever in humans. A consortium involving North Carolina State University (NCSU) and several Australian institutions reports this finding in the August 25 edition

of Nature.

The bacterium *Wolbachia* occurs naturally and is not harmful to humans. The researchers, with backing from the nonprofit organization Eliminate Dengue, infected female mosquitoes with *Wolbachia*. They bred those mosquitoes with *Aedes Aegypti* carrying dengue, and found that the bacterium blocked transmission of the dengue virus to the offspring.

Then they worked to find out how quickly this mosquito match-up might eliminate dengue in the controlled population used in the research. They found that one particular strain of *Wolbachia* could purge the insects of dengue within a few generations.

NCSU's Alun Lloyd, a mathematical biologist, devised a mathematical model that helped the researchers determine how fast the cross-breeding might produce the desired results.

"This is a simple, nonchemical, nonharmful way to reduce the threat of dengue to humans," Lloyd said in an NSCU press release. "It could have a transformative effect on the health of literally millions of people worldwide."

An estimated 50 million people annually are affected by dengue, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The disease induces a severe flu-like illness and can advance to potentially lethal dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF). The disease was first identified in the 1950s amid outbreaks in the Philippines and Thailand. The disease prevalence has expanded widely in the ensuing decades in the tropical and semi-tropical regions where the mosquito vector thrives. WHO reports that in 2007 alone, nations of the Americas recorded almost 900,000 cases.

The disease now occurs naturally in the environment in more than 100 countries across many regions: Africa, the Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific. The last two regions are the most severely affected with DHF, as the disease has become a leading cause of hospitalization and death among children.

As many as 500,000 people require hospitalization each year for DHF, according to a WHO fact sheet, but, with proper treatment, death rates can be held to less than 1 percent.

Research is ongoing to develop a vaccine.

Eliminate Dengue is funded by the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative. The group receives further funding from the

Australian government.

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